



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.

WINDOW GARDENING.

THE adornment of windows with plants greatly adds to the attraction of windows. Works are readily obtainable that furnish practical directions for their proper culture and arrangement, and point out many appliances, from a simple bracket and vase to elaborate conservatories. The keeping of plants in an apartment is no longer alloyed by fear of unhealthfulness, investigation having shown that they are prolific distributors of ozone both in light and darkness, thus being connected with hygiene whilst gratifying æsthetic tastes. It is highly probable that in years to come, some part of dwellings will be expressly made for cultivating plants and flowers. Moisture loving plants, such as ferns, that luxuriate in partial shade,

may be set up in a glass at the far window of a hall, or at the end of a passage, or at a stair landing to hide an unsightly view, whilst a source of pleasure, interest and beauty. The plants would always supply plenty of fresh green leaves and spray for grouping with flowers, and would require but occasional attention in syringing with tepid water. Plants are not the exclusive things that some people imagine, but will grow in all manner of out of the way places. The pretty diminutive decorative potted plants, grown in frames and supplied by horticulturists, flourish well in ordinary sitting rooms.

One of the best constructions for winter is a window box fitted on sill, made of various materials, such as wood carved or decorated with painted ornamental design, virgin cork or enameled tiles. These boxes are well adapted for ordinary bedding plants, hardy climbers, annuals and hardy and half hardy bulbs, but if the cultivation of ferns be attempted, a neat glass case can be fixed instead of the window box, and in this many of the hardier kinds which have a delicate freshness and beauty may be placed. These cases do not cost much. Each may be furnished with a semicircular wire trellis over which to train a climber. The box is planted with fresh green trailers and a few flowering plants that have been raised either from bulbs, seeds or cuttings. Ivy, virgin creepers or other graceful climbers are planted at corners to cover the arch. From the center of the arch a small basket may be hung, containing creeping Jenny, the *sedum Siebolden* and *saxifraga sarmentosa* together with maidens' hair. There are several useful contrivances for growing plants on the side of the window frame, and against a wall and otherwise economizing space. The *figus elastica* (india rubber plant), oleanders, small palms, dracem, and other hardy leaved flowering plants are generally used to furnish the boxes; these may be made gay with flowering bulbs when winter is over, and a few seeds of annuals, climbers and foliage plants, together with fuchsias and balsams, will render them sufficiently attractive during the summer months.

Many of the tender and beautiful plants and ferns do not flourish with the heat of a fire and the fumes of burning gas in an apartment. For this a glass case is necessary. The case and contents will make a pleasing addition even to the most pleasing and elaborate drawing room, and the case should be so fitted as to allow of heat being communicated by oil or spirit lamp connected with pipes of hot water. The box may be suitably framed in rustic style. In addition to small cases for setting on ornamental stands, it may be desirable in many instances to have a little window conservatory. Low French windows are specially adapted for this kind of thing, and when tastefully filled with ferns, ornamental trailing or flowering plants are sure to interest as seen from the apartment. They can either be constructed outside or in the room. They should be glazed with crown glass. When built outside the house, the floor and stages should be watered three times a day.

An aquarium plant-case possesses special attractions to many window gardeners as, in addition to the fresh color of flowers and foliage, it provides the sparkling of water and the lively movement of specimens of animal life. Aquarium and plant-cases are made in different forms and to suit different positions. One form provides space for plants at each end, it occupying the center. Each aquarium can be constructed so as to receive heat from a gas jet or spirit lamp. Some delicate mosses and ferns will grow best on pieces of sand just elevated above the edge of the water.

Even in a small house it is extremely easy, without encroaching on useful space, to collect and keep in good condition several hundred species of plants. Most plants require watering carefully and regularly; succulent plants need but a moderate supply of moisture.

THE ATTAINMENT OF COMFORT.

BY HELEN ANDERSON.

I THINK we all have more or less of the "genus feline" in our natures, as is manifested by our love for cozy nooks, bright fires and comfortable corners. Very few of us but what have in some vague dreamy fashion, after our more magnificent Spanish castles have fallen in ruins, built our ideal home, and I fancy if we could put in words this ideal we would sum it up as a place useful to the eye, pleasant to mind and body.

Somehow the majority fail, when the time and material is at hand, to carry out these dreams, dismissing them as impracticable; satisfying themselves with the promise that when our ship comes in, when we get rich, when the children grow up, we will then make us a house beautiful. I believe that when young people build their first nest, it is then the time to use every effort to make the home a place of pleasure and beauty. Remembering that a good picture (not necessarily an expensive one), a bit of harmony in color, must have a refining influence and often develops a love of the beautiful that will, perhaps, soften some of the sharp corners in what would have otherwise become a too unimaginative nature.

I suppose we have all some childish recollections of visiting an aunt or elderly maiden cousin, the best of women at heart, good wives, sisters or cousins, which ever it may be, but surrounded and encased by an atmosphere so chilling that bold was the young adventurer that attempted to get behind that wall of stone. Something like the cocoanuts we get, sweet and tender at heart, but oh what hard knocks one must give to get through the outer shell. I don't know whether they looked like their best room, or their best room looked like them, but the resemblance was striking. How often I have sat in just such a parlor; cold and dark, chills running down my backbone, that unpleasant sensation cheerfully spoken of as "some one stepping over your grave." All such useless things as comfortable chairs, cushions and books vanished with the dust and sunlight from this immaculate room; and then balancing myself upon one of those slippery unpleasant abominations called haircloth sofas, have vainly tried to become interested in the conversation which, like the room, was cold, immaculate, precise and dreary. These excellent people were doing their very best to entertain us, but when we stepped into daylight again we were delighted that it was over. Who can say how many generations of haircloth furniture, nightmare carpets, and too great a love of order, had not had its share in the formation of these excellent but uncomfortable people. Perhaps you have been fortunate enough to only remember a childish wondering glance into that awful best room, and have penetrated into

